

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A light emitting device comprising:
  - a substantially transparent spherical housing;
  - a circuit contained within the housing, the circuit comprising a light emitting means, a time delay means, a battery means and a switch which, upon activation, closes the circuit providing current to the circuit from the battery means.
2. The light emitting device of claim 1 wherein the housing is generally spherical having a flat base.
3. The light emitting device of claim 2 wherein the housing contains self-righting means for causing the device, following deployment on a surface, to come to a resting position with the flat base engaging the surface.
4. The light emitting device of claim 1 wherein a switch extension is configured to engage the switch, a portion of the switch extension extending to the exterior of the housing.
5. The light emitting device of claim 4 wherein the exterior of the housing comprises a recessed section, a portion of the switch extension extending into the recessed section.
6. The light emitting device of claim 1 wherein the light emitting means emits light within the infrared spectrum.
7. The light emitting device of claim 1 wherein the housing comprises a first hemisphere and a second hemisphere attached together with fastening means.
- 20 8. The light emitting device of claim 7 wherein a circuit board is set between the first hemisphere and the second hemisphere.
9. The light emitting device of claim 8 wherein the light emitting means, the time delay means and the switch are mounted on the circuit board.
10. The light emitting device of claim 1 wherein the time delay means comprises a programmable time delay for energizing of the light emitting means.
- 25 11. The light emitting device of claim 1 wherein the light emitting means comprises a first set of light emitting diodes and a second set of light emitting diodes.
12. The light emitting device of claim 11 wherein the circuit is configured so that the first set of light emitting diodes and the second set of light emitting diodes are not energized at the same time.
- 30 13. The light emitting device of claim 12 wherein the first set of light emitting diodes and the

second set of light emitting diodes are alternatively energized at 150 cycles per second.

14. The light emitting device of claim 1 wherein the battery means comprises a 9 volt dc battery.

15. The light emitting device of claim 14 wherein the circuit further comprises means for ascertaining if the battery voltage is less than 7 volts dc.

5 16. The light emitting device of claim 15 wherein the circuit further comprises means for temporarily interrupting current flow to all of the light emitting means if the battery voltage is less than 7 volts dc.

17. The light emitting device of claim 1 wherein the circuit comprises a microcontroller.

10 18. The light emitting device of claim 17 wherein the microcontroller is packaged as a TSSOP.

19. The light emitting device of claim 18 wherein the TSSOP comprises 16 leads.

20. The light emitting device of claim 1 wherein the circuit further comprises a voltage regulator.

15 21. A light emitting device comprising:  
a substantially transparent generally spherical housing, the housing comprising a first hemisphere and a second hemisphere attached together with fastening means;  
a round circuit board set between the first hemisphere and the second hemisphere;  
a battery storage compartment contained within the housing;  
20 a circuit comprising a light emitting means, a time delay means, a battery, and a switch which, upon activation, closes the circuit providing current to the circuit from the battery;  
and  
the light emitting means, the time delay means and the switch mounted on the circuit board and the battery disposed within the battery storage compartment.

25 22. The light emitting device of claim 21 wherein the circuit board has a rectangular opening in the approximate mid-section of the circuit board.

23. The light emitting device of claim 22 wherein the battery storage compartment extends through the rectangular opening in the circuit board.

24. The light emitting device of claim 21 wherein a nine volt battery is disposed within the battery storage compartment.

30 25. The light emitting device of claim 21 wherein a switch extension is configured to engage

the switch, a portion of the switch extension extending to the exterior of the housing.

26. The light emitting device of claim 25 wherein the exterior of the housing comprises a recessed section, a portion of the switch extension extending into the recessed section.

27. The light emitting device of claim 21 wherein the light emitting means comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes.

5 28. The light emitting device of claim 27 wherein the light emitting diodes emit light within the infrared spectrum.

29. The light emitting device of claim 21 where the time delay means delays energizing of the light emitting means for five seconds.

10 30. The light emitting device of claim 27 wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes comprises a first set of light emitting diodes and a second set of light emitting diodes.

31. The light emitting device of claim 30 wherein the circuit is configured so that the first set of light emitting diodes and the second set of light emitting diodes are not energized at the same time.

15 32. The light emitting device of claim 31 wherein the first set of light emitting diodes and the second set of light emitting diodes are alternatively energized at 150 cycles per second.

33. A method of strategically illuminating a darkened area comprising the steps of: activating a light emitting device having time delay means by engaging a switch on the light emitting device;

20 deploying the light emitting device by propelling the light emitting device into the darkened area; and

waiting for a predetermined time to elapse for the light emitting means to emit light, wherein the light emitting device comprises: (i) a substantially transparent housing and (ii) a circuit contained within the housing, the circuit comprising light emitting means, the time delay means, battery means and the switch which, upon activation, closes the circuit.

25 34. The method of claim 33 wherein the housing is generally spherical.

35. The method of claim 33 wherein the housing is generally spherical having a flat base.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the housing contains self-righting means for causing the device, following deployment on a surface, to come to a resting position with the flat base engaging the surface.

30

37. The method of claim 33 wherein a switch extension is configured to engage the switch, a portion of the switch extension extending to the exterior of the housing.
38. The method of claim 37 wherein the exterior of the housing comprises a recessed section, a portion of the switch extension extending into the recessed section.
- 5 39. The method of claim 33 wherein the light emitting means comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes.
40. The method of claim 39 wherein the light emitting diodes emit light within the infrared spectrum.
41. The method of claim 33 wherein the housing comprises a first hemisphere and a second hemisphere attached together with fastening means.
- 10 42. The method of claim 41 wherein a circuit board is set between the first hemisphere and the second hemisphere.
43. The method of claim 43 wherein the light emitting means, the time delay means and the switch are mounted on the circuit board.
- 15 44. The method of claim 33 wherein the time delay means delays energizing of the light emitting means for five seconds.
45. The method of claim 39 wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes comprises a first set of light emitting diodes and a second set of light emitting diodes.
46. The method of claim 45 wherein the circuit is configured so that the first set of light 20 emitting diodes and the second set of light emitting diodes are not energized at the same time.
47. The method of claim 46 wherein the first set of light emitting diodes and the second set of light emitting diodes are alternatively energized at 150 cycles per second.
48. The method of claim 33 wherein the battery means comprises a 9 volt dc battery.
- 25 49. The method of claim 48 wherein the circuit further comprises means for ascertaining whether the battery voltage is less than 7 volts dc.
50. The light emitting device of claim 49 wherein the circuit further comprises means for temporarily interrupting current flow to all of the light emitting means if the battery voltage is less than 7 volts dc.
- 30 51. The method of claim 33 wherein the circuit comprises a microcontroller.
52. The method of claim 51 wherein the microcontroller is packaged as a TSSOP.

53. The method of claim 52 wherein the TSSOP comprises 16 leads.

54. The method of claim 33 wherein the circuit further comprises a voltage regulator.

55. A method of strategically illuminating a darkened area comprising the steps of: activating a light emitting device having a time delay means by engaging a switch on the light emitting device;

10 activating the light emitting device by propelling the light emitting device into the darkened area; and

15 waiting for a predetermined time to elapse for the light emitting device to emit light, wherein the light emitting device comprises: (i) a substantially transparent generally spherical housing, the housing comprising a first hemisphere and a second hemisphere attached together with fastening means; (ii) a circuit contained within the housing, the circuit comprising light emitting means, the time delay means, battery means and the switch which, upon activation, closes the circuit; and (iii) a circuit board disposed between the first hemisphere and the second hemisphere, the light emitting means, the time delay means and the switch mounted on the circuit board.

56. The method of claim 55 wherein the circuit board has a rectangular opening in the approximate mid-section of the circuit board.

57. The method of claim 56 wherein the battery storage compartment extends through the rectangular opening in the circuit board.

20 58. The method of claim 55 wherein a nine volt battery is disposed within the battery storage compartment.

59. The method of claim 55 wherein a switch extension is configured to engage the switch, a portion of the switch extension extending to the exterior of the housing.

60. The method of claim 59 wherein the exterior of the housing comprises a recessed section, a portion of the switch extension extending into the recessed section.

25 61. The method of claim 55 wherein the light emitting means comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes.

62. The method of claim 55 wherein the light emitting means emits light within the infrared spectrum.

30 63. The method of claim 55 wherein the time delay means delays energizing of the light emitting means for five seconds.

64. The method of claim 61 wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes comprises a first set of light emitting diodes and a second set of light emitting diodes.
65. The method of claim 64 wherein the circuit is configured so that the first set of light emitting diodes and the second set of light emitting diodes are not energized at the same time.
- 5 66. The method of claim 65 wherein the first set of light emitting diodes and the second set of light emitting diodes are alternatively energized at 150 cycles per second.